

a retainer having an interior surface engaging an exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion of the optical holder so as to be slideable along the exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the interior surface of the retainer engages the exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion such that the optical holder and optical element are rotateable with respect to the retainer perpendicular to the second direction..

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3. A device according to claim 2, wherein
the retainer comprises an externally threaded sleeve;
the optical element is substantially round; and
the externally threaded sleeve has an axis of rotation substantially identical to the axis of rotation of the holder and the optical element with respect to the retainer.

4. A device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a mounting structure comprising an optical element receiving surface, wherein the retainer is removeably engageable with the mounting structure such that when the retainer is engaged with the mounting structure, the optical element is positioned against the optical element receiving surface.

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6. A device according to claim 4, wherein
the retainer includes a first set of threads;

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the mounting structure includes a second set of threads engaging the first set of threads to removeably engage the retainer and the mounting structure.

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14. A device according to claim 4, wherein the mounting structure comprises a flexible tube element comprising a base end an optical element receiving end, and a flexible section interposed between the base end and the receiving surface, and wherein the optical element receiving surface is part of the flexible tube element, proximate the optical element receiving end.

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16. A gas laser, comprising:
a tube having a first end wall at one end and a second end wall at the other end, wherein the tube defines a cavity for containing a laser gas therein, and the first end wall includes a port;
an electrode system disposed within the tube for generating a laser beam having an optical axis extending longitudinally through the tube and passing through the port;

a mounting structure mounted on the first end wall of the tube, the mounting structure comprising an optical element receiving surface and an aperture extending through the receiving surface, wherein the aperture is disposed transverse to the optical axis and is aligned with the port and the optical axis so that the optical axis passes through the aperture;

an unitary optical element having a peripheral edge, the peripheral edge being substantially planar with respect to a first direction substantially perpendicular to the peripheral edge;

a unitary optical holder comprising a tubular gripping portion and a tubular extraction portion connected at one end to the tubular gripping portion and having a diameter less than the

tubular gripping portion, the tubular gripping portion engaging the peripheral edge of the optical element to retain the optical element within the optical holder; and

a retainer having an interior surface engaging an exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion of the optical holder so as to be slideable along the exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the retainer being engageable with the mounting structure such that the optical element is positioned against the optical element receiving surface to form a gas tight seal therebetween; wherein

the optical element is disposed transverse to the optical axis and the optical axis impinges on the optical element.

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the interior surface of the retainer engages the exterior surface of the tubular extraction portion such that the optical holder and optical element are rotateable with respect to the retainer perpendicular to the second direction. [about a common axis, and rotation of the holder rotates the optical element].

18. A gas laser according to claim 17, wherein the retainer may be partially disengaged from the mounting structure such that the optical holder and optical element may be rotated within the retainer.

20. A gas laser according to claim 18,
the retainer comprises an externally threaded sleeve;
the optical element is substantially round; and

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the externally threaded sleeve has an axis of rotation substantially identical to the axis of rotation of the holder and the optical element with respect to the retainer.

22. A gas laser according to claim 16, wherein
the retainer includes a first set of threads;
the mounting structure includes a second set of threads engaging the first set of threads to
removeably engage the retainer and the mounting structure.

23. A gas laser according to claim 22, wherein the first set of threads comprises an externally
threaded sleeve.

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30. A gas laser according to claim 16, wherein the mounting structure comprises a flexible
tube element comprising a base end an optical element receiving end, and a flexible section
interposed between the base end and the receiving surface, and wherein the optical element
receiving surface is part of the flexible tube element, proximate the optical element receiving
end.

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.
Claims 1-8 and 10-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vodzak.
Claims 16-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vodzak in view
of Chenausky. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is
respectfully requested.